(c) whether the Government have issued tenders for procurement of wagons by passing the public sector Wagon India Limited;

(d) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;

(e) whether the Government have received any information regarding huge scam in purchase of wagons;

(f) if so, the details thereof;

(g) whether the Government have conducted any inquiry in this regard;

(h) if so, the outcome thereof and the action taken thereon ;and

(i) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) and (b) The policy of this Government is to bring transparency, economy and competition in its purchases. Within the parameters of this policy an administrative decision has been taken by the Ministry of Railways to procure 100% of its wagon requirement from Industry, through open tender from 1998-99.

(c) and (d) With a view to bring transparency, economy and competition in procurement of wagons, Railways have issued open tender for an estimated requirements of 27000 numbers in four wheeler units for 1998-99. This has been opened on 3.9.97. Members of Wagons India Limited were free to participate in the tender and all its twelve numbers have infact participated. The tender is still under finalisation and no contracts have yet been placed.

(e) No, Sir.

(f) to (i) Does not arise.

[English]

Surveillance Radars

*38. SHRI G.A. CHARAN REDDY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Civil Aviation Ministry has decided to enhace air safety by bringing the entire space of the country under the cover of secondary surveillance radars and satellite based systems by the end of the current years;

(b) if so, whether the Airport Authority of India has been asked to speed up work on secondary surveillance radar installation projects ; and

(c) if so, the details of the measures taken or proposed to be taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI JAYANTHI NATRAJAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Airport Surveillance Radars are already in operation at 7 airports and one is being installed at Ahmedabad in 1997. Three Secondary Surveillance Radars Systems are already installed and work of installing 8 more Systems is in progress . Air route Surveillance Radars are in operation at two locations and two are being installed. Automatic Dependent Surveillance Radars (ADS) will be installed in two location by December 1997.

Rail Accidents

*39. SHRI BANWARI LAL PUROHIT : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the government have held the General Managers responsible for any lapses of resulting in rail accidents;

(b) if so, whether the factors responsible for railway accidents have been investigated in depth;

(c) if so, the details thereof;

(d) whether the transfer of General Managers from one place to another is going to solve the problem; and

(e) if not, the other steps, the Government propose to take in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF RAILWAYS (SHRI RAM VILAS PASWAN) : (a) to (d) Each accident on Indian Railways in investigated thoroughly either by the Railway authorities or by the Commissioner of Railway Safety which is administratively independent of Ministry of Railways. On the basis of such enquiries, responsibility is fixed in each case. Factors responsible for Railway accidents include *inter alia* the following :

(i) Human error, (ii) Track defect, (iiii) Carriage and Wagon defects, (iv) Equipment failures, (v) Fire in trains, (vi) Negligence on the part of the road users, (vii) Sabotage and other incidental factors. General Manager of Zonal Railway has not been held responsible individually in any accident enquiry report.

(e) Some of the measures taken to improve safety and prevent accidents are as under :

(i) The work of track circuiting has been accelerated on the trunk routes and other important main lines.

(ii) Modification of the Signalling circuitry is being carried out to minimise chances of human error in causing accidents.